



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Washington's 2006 Potato Acreage Up from 2005

OLYMPIA, Wash., July 12, 2006-- In a report issued today by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) Washington Field Office, Washington growers planted an estimated 156,000 acres of potatoes in 2006, 2,000 acres more than in 2005, but 4,000 acres below the 2004 crop. The entire 2006 crop is expected to be harvested. Eighty-six percent of the Washington crop is planted to russet type varieties, 9 percent to white and yellow flesh varieties and the remainder is reportedly red and blue types.

Idaho growers planted 330,000 acres to potatoes this year, 5,000 acres more than the 325,000 acres planted for the 2005 crop. Russet type varieties also dominate in Idaho and Oregon with 94 and 81 percent of the planted acreage, respectively. Oregon's planted acreage for the 2006 crop is estimated at 35,000 acres compared with 37,300 acres in 2005. With 521,000 acres planted to potatoes for 2006, the Pacific Northwest accounted for 46 percent of the Nation's acres planted to potatoes compared with 47 percent last year.

Area planted to fall potatoes in the U.S. for 2006 is estimated at 990,500 acres, up 2 percent from last year but 5 percent below 2004. Harvested acres are forecast at 974,400, up 3 percent from 2005 but 5 percent below 2 years ago. This increase is due in part to low ending stocks and higher prices.

Chris Messer, NASS Director of the Washington Field Office stated, "This is the first acreage estimate for the 2006 potato crop in Washington. The first production estimate for the 2006 crop will be released November 9. Final estimates of acreage, production and disposition for the 2005 crop will be published September 21."

To access the entire release, including the complete narrative and tables, point to:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington/Publications/Current_News_Releases/potacres.pdf

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at
www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington/

Fall Potatoes, 15 Major States, July 1, 2006

STATE	PLANTED			HARVESTED			YIELD 1/		PRODUCTION 1/	
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	1,000 Acres						Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
Idaho	355.0	325.0	330.0	353.0	323.0	328.0	362		116,975	
Oregon	37.0	37.3	35.0	37.0	37.1	35.0	594		22,023	
Washington	160.0	154.0	156.0	159.0	154.0	156.0	620		95,480	
Pacific NW	552.0	516.3	521.0	549.0	514.1	519.0	456		234,478	
California	7.6	7.2	7.8	7.6	7.2	7.8	450		3,240	
Colorado	65.0	58.2	59.9	64.3	57.9	59.7	385		22,292	
Maine	63.5	57.5	59.0	62.0	56.2	56.0	280		15,736	
Michigan	43.0	44.0	44.0	42.0	43.5	43.5	320		13,920	
Minnesota	47.0	46.0	52.0	44.0	43.0	49.0	410		17,630	
Montana	10.7	11.0	10.5	10.6	10.9	10.4	315		3,434	
Nebraska	22.0	19.5	19.5	21.6	19.4	19.2	425		8,245	
New York	20.0	20.5	20.6	19.2	20.1	20.1	260		5,226	
North Dakota	105.0	92.0	100.0	101.0	82.0	95.0	250		20,500	
Ohio	3.7	3.7	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.1	240		864	
Pennsylvania	12.0	11.5	11.0	11.0	11.0	10.8	250		2,750	
Wisconsin	71.0	68.0	67.0	70.0	68.0	66.0	410		27,880	
Total 15 States	1,022.5	955.4	975.6	1,005.9	941.8	959.6	399		376,195	
U.S. Fall Total	1,039.7	1,110.0	1,138.0	1,022.8	1,087.4	1,118.4	388		422,209	

1/ The forecast of fall potato production will be released November 9, 2006.

Fall Potatoes: Percentage of Acreage Planted by Type, 11 Major States, 2004-2006 Crops

STATE	POTATO TYPES 1/								
	REDS			WHITES			RUSSETS		
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
	Percent								
Colorado	5	4	3	13	11	13	82	85	84
Idaho	2	2	2	3	3	4	95	95	94
Maine 2/	5	3	2	51	50	49	44	47	49
Michigan	3	2	2	84	83	83	13	15	15
Minnesota	23	25	25	11	9	9	66	66	66
New York	5	5	5	90	90	90	5	5	5
North Dakota	17	20	22	39	32	32	44	48	46
Oregon	4	2	4	22	14	15	74	84	81
Pennsylvania	4	6	5	96	94	95	-	-	-
Washington	3	3	5	9	10	9	88	87	86
Wisconsin	11	11	12	32	32	31	57	57	57
11 State Average	6	6	7	21	20	21	73	74	72

1/ Predominant type shown may include small portion of other type(s) constituting less than 1 percent of the State's total. Yellow flesh potatoes are reported under white types. Blue types are reported under red types.

2/ 2005 revised.